

Listing of All Claims Including Current Amendments

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied at a temperature between 300°C and 600°C.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied to the surface of the container in the form of a bar code.
6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said bar code is applied annularly onto a cylindrical portion of the sample container in a manner that said bar code is readable along a cylindrical axis of the sample container.
7. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied to the surface of the container along with numerals or letters.
8. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied to the surface of the container in the form of numerals or letters.
9. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied to the surface of the container in the form of symbols.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied to the surface of the container at about 500 °C.
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method for labeling a sample container, to provide an identification to a sample to be received therein, during a manufacturing process of the sample container, ~~the sample container being usable for holding the sample within the container at an operating temperature higher than a room temperature~~, the method comprising:

producing a sample container in a heated environment, the sample container being usable for holding a sample within the container at an operating temperature higher than a room temperature;

cooling the heated sample container to a temperature interval between a maximum temperature occurring during the production of the sample container and the operating temperature of the sample to be received therein; and

applying a marking agent for identification of the sample to a surface of the sample container at the temperature interval such that volatile constituents of the marking agent are evaporated during the manufacturing process of the sample container to prevent contamination of the sample to be received within the sample container and usable at the operating temperature.

15. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the marking agent is applied to the container by ink jet printing.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of labeling a sample container, the method comprising:

applying a marking agent to a surface of the container; and

evaporating volatile constituents of the marking agent.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein evaporating volatile constituents of the marking agent comprises elevating the temperature of the container

to an elevated temperature above a degassing temperature characteristic of the marking agent.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein elevating the temperature of the container comprises elevating the temperature of the container to a temperature above a sample analysis temperature.
19. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying a bar code to the surface of the container.
20. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying numerals or letters to the surface of the container.
21. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying symbols to the surface of the container.
22. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying an ink to the surface of the container.
23. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein in that the elevated temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.
24. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein in that the elevated temperature is approximately 500°C.
25. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 17 further comprising cooling the container.

Page 5

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Response to Final Official Action

26. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in Claim 25 further comprising applying a marking agent to a surface of the container while cooling the container.